

This is an official

CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network

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Multi-state Investigation of Potential Rabies Exposure at a Summer Camp

Background

Since August 2, 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been collaborating with Group Workcamps Foundation, and state and local health departments in 13 states, to investigate reports of the presence of bats at a summer camp and assess the potential for exposures to rabies. The camp lodging facility which is located in New Richmond, Ohio hosted approximately 440 teenagers and adults from 13 states (Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) from June 11-July 28. This advisory provides information about the investigation, an update for states that may receive inquiries due to public concerns about bats and rabies, and criteria for conducting risk assessments to determine the need for postexposure prophylaxis (PEP).

One or a few bats were observed to be present in the structure where the campers slept on at least four different occasions. At the time of the first observation on 2 July, two bats were present in the foyer of the building. One bat escaped and one was killed and discarded by an adult. The following week (9 July) another bat was seen in the sleeping area and it was similarly killed and discarded. A few weeks later, on July 23, another bat was seen in the sleeping area; it was also killed and discarded. On the night of the fourth incident (25 or 26 July), a single bat was observed flying above the sleeping area and then roosting on the ceiling 30-40 feet above the campers. Adult chaperones monitored the situation to ensure the bat was not mobile, before going to sleep. The Group Workcamps Foundation is working collaboratively with local and state health departments and CDC to notify the parents of each camper who attended the camp during the summer so that any potential exposures to rabies will be identified and managed appropriately. To date, no apparent direct contact with bats has been reported by any camper and the actions being taken by the Group Workcamps Foundation and the public health authorities are precautionary.

Similar potential rabies exposures occurred at a summer camp at Camp Potomac Woods in Lucketts, Virginia. A follow-up evaluation found that the presence of bats was common around the camp area, with additional bats found in several sleeping shelters. Prompt action by the part of the Loudon County Health Department and Virginia Department of Health identified 14 candidates for PEP out of 950 total campers.

Human rabies PEP is recommended when potentially infectious material (e.g. saliva) from a rabid animal or human is introduced via a bite, or comes into direct contact with broken skin or mucous membranes. More detailed information regarding evaluation for and administration of PEP is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00056176.htm>.

Additional Information

Additional information about rabies and its prevention is available from your state health department and CDC, telephone 1-800-CDC-INFO or at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/>.

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Incidents of animal bites to include encounters with bats as described in this Health Advisory should be reported to the local DHEC office. This is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

(Anderson, Oconee)

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 231-1966
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

(Greenville, Pickens)

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or
1-800-993-1186

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825 or
1-800-993-1186

Region 3

(Chester, Lancaster, York)

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886 or
1-888-739-0748

(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

Region 4

(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 773-6366
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 536-9118
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Region 5 (cont)

(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)

2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3806
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 525-7603
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

Bureau of Disease Control

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.